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IN THE CLAIMS:

✓ Please cancel claims 1-96 without disclaimer or prejudice.

Please add the following new claims:

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- 97. A method for facilitating a transaction between a buyer and at least one of a plurality of sellers, comprising:
receiving a conditional purchase offer which includes an offer price;
receiving a payment identifier specifying a financial account, the payment identifier being associated with the conditional purchase offer;
making the conditional purchase offer available to a plurality of sellers after receiving the payment identifier;
receiving an acceptance from a seller, the acceptance being responsive to the conditional purchase offer; and
providing a payment to the seller by using the payment identifier.
98. The method of claim 97, in which the step of receiving an acceptance comprises:
receiving an acceptance from each seller of a set of sellers, the set of sellers comprising at least one seller, each acceptance being responsive to the conditional purchase offer;
and further comprising:
selecting a received acceptance, thereby selecting a seller of the set of sellers; and
and in which the step of providing a payment comprises:
providing a payment to the selected seller by using the payment identifier.
99. The method of claim 98, in which the step of selecting a received acceptance comprises:
determining a first received acceptance, thereby determining a first seller of the set of sellers;
and in which the step of providing a payment comprises:
providing a payment to the first seller by using the payment identifier.
100. The method of claim 97, in which the financial account is a credit card account.
101. The method of claim 97, further comprising:
determining if a predetermined amount is available in the financial account.
102. The method of claim 97, in which the step of providing a payment comprises:
transferring payment from a buyer to the seller.
103. The method of claim 97, in which the step of providing a payment comprises:
transmitting the payment identifier to the selected seller.
104. The method of claim 97, further comprising:
receiving from the buyer authorization to use the payment identifier to provide payment if an acceptance is received.

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cont.

105. The method of claim 97, in which the step of receiving an acceptance comprises:
receiving an acceptance from each seller of a set of sellers, the set of sellers including at least two sellers.
106. The method of claim 97, in which the conditional purchase offer includes an expiration date and is non-revocable prior to the expiration date.
107. The method of claim 97, further comprising:
determining an active period during which the conditional purchase offer is active;
and in which the step of receiving an acceptance is performed during the active period.
108. The method of claim 97, further comprising:
receiving a revocation of the conditional purchase offer after the step of receiving an acceptance; and in which the step of providing a payment comprises:
providing a payment of a predetermined amount to the seller.
109. An apparatus for facilitating a transaction between a buyer and at least one of a plurality of sellers, comprising:
a storage device; and
a processor connected to the storage device,
the storage device storing
a program for controlling the processor; and
the processor operative with the program to
receive a conditional purchase offer which includes an offer price;
receive a payment identifier specifying a financial account, the payment identifier being associated with the conditional purchase offer;
make the conditional purchase offer available to the plurality of sellers after receiving the payment identifier;
receive an acceptance from a seller, the acceptance being responsive to the conditional purchase offer; and
provide payment to the selected seller by using the payment identifier.
110. A method for facilitating a transaction between a buyer and at least one of a plurality of sellers, comprising:
receiving a conditional purchase offer which includes an offer price;
receiving a payment identifier specifying a financial account, the payment identifier being associated with the conditional purchase offer;
receiving authorization to use the payment identifier to provide a payment if an acceptance is received;
transmitting the conditional purchase offer to the plurality of sellers after receiving the payment identifier;
receiving an acceptance from a seller, the acceptance being responsive to the conditional purchase offer; and
providing the payment to the seller by using the payment identifier.
111. An apparatus for facilitating a transaction between a buyer and at least one of a plurality of sellers, comprising:

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a storage device; and
a processor connected to the storage device,
the storage device storing
a program for controlling the processor; and
the processor operative with the program to
receive a conditional purchase offer which includes an offer price;
receive a payment identifier specifying a financial account, the payment identifier
being associated with the conditional purchase offer;
receive authorization to use the payment identifier to provide a payment if an
acceptance is received;
transmit the conditional purchase offer to the plurality of sellers after receiving
the payment account identifier;
receive an acceptance from a seller, the acceptance being responsive to the
transmitted conditional purchase offer; and
provide the payment to the seller by using the payment identifier.

112. A method for using a computer to facilitate a transaction between a buyer and at least one of a plurality of sellers, comprising:
inputting a conditional purchase offer which includes an offer price;
inputting a payment identifier specifying a financial account, the payment identifier being associated with the conditional purchase offer;
transmitting the conditional purchase offer to the plurality of sellers after receiving the payment identifier;
inputting an acceptance from a seller, the acceptance being responsive to the conditional purchase offer; and
providing a payment to the seller by using the payment identifier.

113. A computer for facilitating a transaction between a buyer and at least one of a plurality of sellers, comprising:
a storage device; and
a processor connected to the storage device,
the storage device storing
a program for controlling the processor; and
the processor operative with the program to
input a conditional purchase offer which includes an offer price;
input a payment identifier specifying a financial account, the payment identifier being associated with the conditional purchase offer;
transmit the conditional purchase offer to the plurality of sellers after receiving the payment identifier;
input an acceptance from a seller, the acceptance being responsive to the conditional purchase offer; and
provide a payment to the seller by using the payment identifier.--

REMARKS

Claims presented for prosecution in this Response are 97 - 113. Claims 1 - 96 have been canceled without prejudice. New claims 97 - 113 have been added in order to